

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:	Owens et al.	Confirmation No.:	4551
Appl No.:	10/690,322	Group Art Unit:	2161
Filed:	October 21, 2003	Examiner:	Nguyen, Cam-Linh T.
For:	DATA STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR A SUPERSET OF RELATIONAL DATABASES		

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

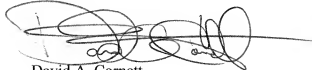
This is in response to the Office Action mailed May 31, 2006, in which the Examiner has required restriction between Group I, namely Claims 1-10, 37-38, Group II, namely Claims 11-16, 32-36, Group III, namely Claims 17-28, Group IV, namely Claims 29-31, and Group V, namely Claims 39-45. Applicant hereby elects without traverse to prosecute the claims of Group V (Claims 39-45) and expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

Applicant does respectfully traverse the designation of claims 1-16 and 32-38 as two separate inventions (namely Group I (claims 1-10, 37-38) and Group II (claims 11-16)). Applicant submits that all of these claims are directed toward a data structure for use in a database and that the claims of Group II only differ in the way the data is stored (i.e., hierarchically), which does not constitute a separate invention from the claims of Group I. Applicant submits that the Examiner would not find it necessary to conduct separate searches for the claims of Group I and Group II. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to combine the claims of Group I and Group II into one group.

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David A. Cornett', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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